



U.S. Army 20th Support Command
(Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear & High Yield Explosives)
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News Release

20th Support Command on display in DC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – The U.S. Army 20th Support Command (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosives) took advantage of Public Service Recognition Week to display their Soldiers and equipment at the National Mall in Washington, DC.

The Joint Services Open House, held at Andrews Air Force Base later this month, provides another unique opportunity for the Forces Command unit to exhibit their capabilities and for visitors to interact with unit members.

The 22d Chemical Battalion (Technical Escort), a subordinate unit of the 20th Support Command (CBRNE), provided active duty Soldiers from their Alpha Company to man the equipment exhibit and explain to visitors how the different response teams use the equipment during operations.

“Events like this lets others see the great Americans we have in our units,” said Brig. Gen. Walt Davis, commander of the 20th Support Command (CBRNE). “Our teams’ desire to share their knowledge, ability to explain how technology helps them in their work, and pride in their accomplishments, makes these exhibits interesting for everyone.”

The display included a Disablement Team trailer containing most of the equipment used by a typical Disablement and Elimination Team in support of operations like Operation Iraqi Freedom. One of the battalion’s mobile analytical laboratory systems was also displayed at the event, which included equipment used for a potential biological hazard response.

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2-2-2 DISPLAY

Also on site was command and control support equipment which assists leadership in maintaining situational awareness, gathering weather information, maintaining communication links, and providing remote video viewing of the operation. Examples of protection, detection, assessment, and decontamination equipment were also on display.

“The event gives the public a chance to get to know another side of soldiers,” said Lt. R. Busseau, assistant team leader from the 22d Chemical Battalion’s Alpha Company. “It puts a face and a name on the military.”

Ms. LaVern Dowdy, a physical science technician with the 20th Support Command, said she felt grateful she was able to represent the unit at this event. “Visitors were very inquisitive,” she said. “We added a personal touch in explaining how our equipment is used in real world scenarios. It increased the visitors’ knowledge and awareness to the fact that the military is evolving at a fast pace, which is going to require more and more public support,” Dowdy said.

Similar equipment exhibits from 20th Support Command subordinates can be seen at the Joint Service Open House and air show, scheduled for May 20-22 at Andrews Air Force Base, in recognition of Armed Forces Day.

Andrews Air Force Base is located approximately 10 miles southeast of Washington, D.C., in Prince George's County, Md., and borders the communities of Camp Springs, Clinton, and Morningside.

Static equipment displays from the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard will be available at the Joint Services Open House. Additional information and an event schedule can be found at <http://public.andrews.amc.af.mil/jsoh/show.html>.

The 20th Support Command (CBRNE) was activated by U.S. Army Forces Command last October to serve as the Army’s command and control element and provider of worldwide U.S. based chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive ordnance operational response teams and technical augmentation cells, worldwide.

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3-3-3 DISPLAY

The unit's mission is to command and control organic and allocated Army technical assets to support full-spectrum CBRNE technical operations that detect, identify, assess, render-safe, dismantle, transfer, dispose of CBRNE incident devices and materiel including unexploded ordnance and improvised explosive devices.

The 22d Chemical Battalion (TE), also established in October 2004, is responsible for providing task-organized teams to conduct technical escort, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear hazard characterization, monitoring, disablement, and elimination support operations.

The unit also provides emergency response to weapons of mass destruction and CBRN incidents, homeland defense, and contingency support operations to Combatant Commanders and lead federal Agencies. And finally, the unit provides site remediation and restoration support operations for the Department of Defense.

"We're proud of the soldiers and civilians in this command and the work they are doing to increase and enhance the Army's capability in the CBRNE response arena," said Davis. Although the 20th is a new headquarters and command, we are making steady progress in addressing the requirement to provide the Army with a focal point for specialized CBRNE operations," Davis said.